

YUDA *et al.*, SN 10/694,809
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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A support system ~~for parts standardization~~ for selecting standard parts from plural candidate parts for parts standardization determination, which comprises:

a first database storage for storing data representing attributes of the plural candidate parts,

a second database storage for storing standardization parameter data representing criteria useable during analysis as to which candidate part of the plural candidate parts should be selected as a standard part, that are criteria on judgment whether the plural parts are standard parts or not,

an accumulation range input device to set a predetermined accumulation parameter range to be used with respect to a subject parameter of interest,

an accumulation unit to use data from the first database storage to accumulate, for each selected parameter value of a plurality of selected parameter values, an accumulation total corresponding to ones of the plural candidate parts having actual parameters falling within the predetermined accumulation range as measured from the selected parameter value, so as to determine a plurality of accumulation totals corresponding respectively to the plurality of selected parameter values, and

a standard parts judging unit to compare ones of the plurality of accumulation totals to each other, to select which candidate part is selected as the standard part.

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~~a nearby range input device for preparing a nearby range data upon inputting
of numerals corresponding to a parameter name, and~~

~~a standard parts judging apparatus for judging whether the plural parts are
standard parts or not, based upon the databases, standardization parameter data
and nearby range data.~~

2. (Amended) The support system as defined in claim 1, which further
comprises a display for displaying the standardization parameter data.

3. (Amended) The support system as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one
of the standardization parameter data corresponds to one of the attributes
represented within the first database storage, and the actual parameters are actual
attribute values of the plural candidate parts, and wherein the predetermined
accumulation parameter range is a numerical value representing a maximum
allowable deviation of an attribute value as measured from the selected parameter
value in order to be accumulated into the accumulation total, the standard parts are
exchangeable with as many parts as possible, and are ones that have much effect of
reduction in cost of designing or production as possible, wherein the databases are
numerals representing contours of the parts, and wherein the nearby range data
constitute pairs of the parameter name and the inputted numerals, receiving inputting
of the parameter names and the numerals.

4-12. (Canceled)

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13. (New) The support system as defined in claim 1, wherein the accumulation total having a largest accumulation total is used to select which candidate part is selected as the standard part.

14. (New) The support system as defined in claim 1, which comprises a display for displaying data for the candidate part selected as the standard part.

15. (New) The support system as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data includes production quantity data corresponding to the plural candidate parts, wherein the accumulation unit uses the production quantity data to accumulate each of the accumulation totals.

16. (New) The support system as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data includes cost of processing data corresponding to the plural candidate parts, wherein the accumulation unit uses the cost of processing data to accumulate each said accumulation total.

17. (New) The support system as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data includes purchase price data corresponding to the plural candidate parts, wherein the accumulation unit uses the purchase price data to accumulate each said accumulation total.

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18. (New) A support method for selecting standard parts from plural candidate parts for parts standardization determination, which comprises:

- storing data representing attributes of the plural candidate parts,
- storing standardization parameter data representing criteria useable during analysis as to which candidate part of the plural candidate parts should be selected as a standard part,
- setting a predetermined accumulation parameter range to be used with respect to a subject parameter of interest,
- accumulating, for each selected parameter value of a plurality of selected parameter values, an accumulation total corresponding to ones of the plural candidate parts having actual parameters falling within the predetermined accumulation range as measured from the selected parameter value, so as to determine a plurality of accumulation totals corresponding respectively to the plurality of selected parameter values, and
- comparing ones of the plurality of accumulation totals to each other, to select which candidate part is selected as the standard part.

19. (New) The support method as defined in claim 18, which comprises displaying the standardization parameter data on a display.

20. (New) The support method as defined in claim 18, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data corresponds to one of the attributes of the plural candidate parts, and the actual parameters are actual attribute values of the plural

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candidate parts, and wherein the predetermined accumulation parameter range is a numerical value representing a maximum allowable deviation of an attribute value as measured from the selected parameter value in order to be accumulated into the accumulation total.

21. (New) The support method as defined in claim 18, which comprises using the accumulation total having a largest accumulation total to select which candidate part is selected as the standard part.

22. (New) The support method as defined in claim 18, which comprises displaying data for the candidate part selected as the standard part on a display.

23. (New) The support method as defined in claim 18, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data includes production quantity data corresponding to the plural candidate parts, wherein the production quantity data is used to accumulate each of the accumulation totals.

24. (New) The support method as defined in claim 18, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data includes cost of processing data corresponding to the plural candidate parts, wherein the cost of processing data is used to accumulate each said accumulation total.

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25. (New) The support method as defined in claim 18, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data includes purchase price data corresponding to the plural candidate parts, wherein the purchase price data is used to accumulate each said accumulation total.

26. (New) A machine-readable medium containing at least one sequence of instructions to assist in selecting standard parts from plural candidate parts for parts standardization determination, the sequence of instruction, when executed, causes a machine to:

- allow storing of data representing attributes of the plural candidate parts,
- allow storing of standardization parameter data representing criteria useable during analysis as to which candidate part of the plural candidate parts should be selected as a standard part,
- allow setting of a predetermined accumulation parameter range to be used with respect to a subject parameter of interest,
- accumulate, for each selected parameter value of a plurality of selected parameter values, an accumulation total corresponding to ones of the plural candidate parts having actual parameters falling within the predetermined accumulation range as measured from the selected parameter value, so as to determine a plurality of accumulation totals corresponding respectively to the plurality of selected parameter values, and
- compare ones of the plurality of accumulation totals to each other, to select which candidate part is selected as the standard part.

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27. (New) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 26, wherein the sequence of instruction, when executed, causes the machine to:

display the standardization parameter data on a display.

28. (New) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 26, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data corresponds to one of the attributes of the plural candidate parts, and the actual parameters are actual attribute values of the plural candidate parts, and wherein the predetermined accumulation parameter range is a numerical value representing a maximum allowable deviation of an attribute value as measured from the selected parameter value in order to be accumulated into the accumulation total.

29. (New) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 26, wherein the sequence of instruction, when executed, causes the machine to:

use the accumulation total having a largest accumulation total to select which candidate part is selected as the standard part.

30. (New) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 26, wherein the sequence of instruction, when executed, causes the machine to:

display data for the candidate part selected as the standard part on a display.

31. (New) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 26, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data includes production quantity data

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corresponding to the plural candidate parts, wherein the production quantity data is used to accumulate each of the accumulation totals.

32. (New) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 26, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data includes cost of processing data corresponding to the plural candidate parts, wherein the cost of processing data is used to accumulate each said accumulation total.

33. (New) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 26, wherein at least one of the standardization parameter data includes purchase price data corresponding to the plural candidate parts, wherein the purchase price data is used to accumulate each said accumulation total.